

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 8, 10, 12, 13 and 17-20 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1-5, 9, 14-16 and 21 are currently being amended. Support for amendments made to the claims may be found in Figure 2 of the drawings, and in the description of that figure in the specification.

Claims 22 and 23 are currently being added.

This amendment adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-7, 9, 14-16 and 21-23 are now pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection:

In the final Office Action dated June 2, 2005, claims 9 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 9 has been amended in accordance with the suggestion provided in the Office Action, whereby presently pending claim 9 now fully conforms to 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. Claim 17 has been canceled, thereby mooting the indefiniteness rejection of that claim.

Prior Art Rejections Made in Final Office Action:

In the final Office Action, claims 1-10, 12, 13, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,764,866 to Maniwa; and claims 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,122,684. These rejections are traversed for the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claims 1 and 14 have each been amended to incorporate features shown in Figure 2 of the drawings, whereby such features, in combination, are not believed to be taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

New Claims:

New claims 22 and 23 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention (see Figure 2 of the drawings, and page 12 of the specification) which are believed to provide a separate basis for patentability of these claims.

Conclusion:

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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